



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 27

AUTUMN 1978

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Greetings Friars!

This edition of the Gazette marks the halfway stage in our Autumn programme.

Before proceeding any further we would like to assuage the fears of those readers who apparently interpreted the onset of the new Greyfriars Library as somehow presaging the end of the Greyfriars Press facsimile editions. Let us stress that the new Library is intended as an *extra* feature. In essence, the stories are new editions of the Schoolboys Own Library — in modern dress. For example, **BILLY BUNTER GETS THE BOOT** is SOL No. 286 of 1937, culled from Magnet Nos 874-877 of 1924. (See page 153 of **MAGNET COMPANION '77**).

THE NEW LIBRARY



This new series, to be published at quarterly or half-yearly intervals, will not override the regular facsimile programme. And the Magnets from which the stories were originally drawn will still be produced in facsimile at a later date.

Hope all is now crystal clear?



The first volume in a spanking new series, entirely re-set in normal book format.

**The HOWARD BAKER
GREYFRIARS LIBRARY
Book One.**

Publication Date: December 1978

*Large Demy Octavo
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Incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers

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GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB

Here is the latest situation — at the time of going to press:



**STOP
PRESS
NEWS**

OUT OF PRINT TITLES.

- Vol. 1. The Worst Boy at Greyfriars.
2. Loder for Captain.
3. The Making of Harry Wharton.
4. Harry Wharton & Co in India.

AVAILABLE TITLES.

- Vol. 5. Tom Merry's Schooldays.
6. Paul Dallas at Greyfriars.
7. The Greyfriars Crusaders. (Almost out of Stock)
8. The Sheik of Greyfriars.
9. Dick the Penman.
10. The Bullseye.
11. The Treasure Hunters.
12. Harry Wharton & Co in Africa.
13. New Boys at Greyfriars.
14. Levison's Return.
15. The Boxer of Greyfriars.
16. Cock of the Walk.
17. The Outcast of the School.
18. The Bounder of Greyfriars.
19. Tatters of the Remove.
20. Harry Wharton & Co in Hollywood.
21. The Greyfriars Film Stars.
22. The Schoolboy Caravanners. (Oct.)

To be published in December 1978.

- Vol. 23. The Toff of St. Jim's (Talbot series, plus extras).



WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST

Friars Patricia Craig and Mary Cadogan have chalked up another literary success with the release of their latest book, **WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST**, published by Gollancz at £7.50.



Its 300 pages are packed with fascinating information guaranteed to appeal to all Friars, collectors and students of juvenile fiction — though its scope extends well beyond.



Jill Tweedie of *Cosmopolitan* wrote: "... a cool, witty and perceptive work."

Women's World reviewer, Virginia Ironside reported: "The most fascinating book to appear this month."

J. W. Lambert of the *Sunday Times* said: "Continually interesting and often very amusing."

To all of which we add a hearty hear-hear! Highly recommended.

W. H. B.



SEXTON BLAKE – A FAKE!

"An actor is only as good as the script" is a popular saying, and the new T.V. Sexton Blake series is a woeful disappointment to all fans. Apart from a dreadfully corny plot and script, the actors cannot do anything else but ham the lines and make the series into a sort of grotesque parody.

Nearly all the actors have been miscast in the roles. Blake is too youthful and frail and not the fortyish figure we know so well. Tinker performs as a sort of buffoon, similar to Hunz Hall of Dead End Kids fame, or, perhaps, a minor villain in *The Sweeney*. Mrs Bardell, instead of being a plump Cockney lady full of malapropisms is a sharp looking elderly female who would be better suited as a Holloway Prison Wardress. Pedro is ideally cast – but in the episodes seen so far he spends most of his time dozing in an arm-chair.

Did one's eyes deceive one when they saw the number 221b on Blake's Baker Street visiting card? And why was the great detective wearing a 1970's type wrist-watch in one of the scenes set in the Twenties? "A jolly Boys Own Paper Romp" and "The hero of many halfpenny comics" were just two comments from National newspapers.

The reviewer of the series in the Radio Times mentioned that once a disgruntled author threw an editor down a lift shaft at Fleetway House and, curiously, this happened to Blake in episode two. Pity that the series did not just end there and then, to save us the embarrassment of watching any more weekly instalments of a fake for Blake.

W. O. G. L.

P.S. The very latest viewing showed Tinker (freed from the 'bondage' scene) dressed in a harem skirt, with rouged cheeks, dramatic eye make-up, and moving in a mincing shuffle.

Will it end with our heroes as attractions in a transvestite bordello in Tangiers? Only time will tell.

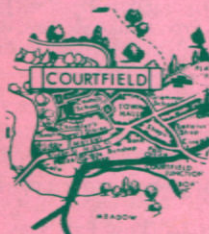
Ed.



FRIARS CLUB

Another highly successful meeting of the London Friars Club was held at the hospitable home of Bob Acraman, 'Courtfield', 49 Kingsend, Ruislip, Middlesex on September 16th. The get-together also included another visit to, and tour of, Harrow School.

The next (Christmas) meeting will be held in the early part of December. Details will be announced in the Christmas issue of the Greyfriars Gazette.



THE NERVE OF NERVINE

Roy Plumley (of BBC Desert Island Discs) writes:

"I was delighted to read the issue of THE GREYFRIARS GAZETTE with all the information about the early days of Bunter's Nervine. Despite my family connection with the stuff, I knew none of this, and congratulate Messrs Lofts and Adley on the thoroughness of their research. I am ashamed ever to have doubted them!"



Greyfriars Gazette



SALES AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Tom Merry's Holiday, £6; G.H.A. 76, £6; G.H.A. 75, £6; The Kidnapped Schoolboys, £15; Billy Bunter in China, £6; Billy Bunter and the Greyfriars Pretender, £8; Greyfriars Crusaders, £8; The Treasure Hunters, £8; The Rebellion of Harry Wharton, £3.50; Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksman, £9. Write to: Mrs S. Williams, Keepers Planting, Boxhill Road, Tadworth, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksman, £7. Write to Mr F. R. Roberts, Flat 1, 123 New Church Road, Hove, BN3 4BE, East Sussex.

FOR SALE: The Rare, OUT OF PRINT title, The Kidnapped Schoolboys (GP Vol 24), £15. BOX No 112, c/o Greyfriars Press, 27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon, London SW20

FOR SALE/EXCHANGE: The much sought-after Volume 18: The Greyfriars Double. Offers to Mr G. C. Dalley, 4 Fieldview, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich NR5 8AQ

FOR SALE: Harry Wharton & Co in Africa, £12; Loder for Captain, £16; The Worst Boy at Greyfriars, £16; Billy Bunter and the Courtfield Cracksman, £8; Harry Wharton's Enemy, £3; The Black Sheep of Greyfriars, £3; Tyrant of Greyfriars, £8. Write to Miss M. Stirland, 5 Mill Lane, Huthwaite, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 2NN

WANTED: Friar Swift of Bebington has Magnet Companion Nos 1 and 2, also The Men Behind Boys Fiction, all in mint condition. Wishes to swop for any pre-war boys papers. Telephone 051-608-8427 any time after 6pm.

WANTED: Collector "C.B" requires HB Magnet Vol. No 23, THE JOKER OF GREYFRIARS. Good price paid. Offers please to BOX No 114 c/o the publishers.

WANTED: Mr J. F. de Freitas requires the following original Magnet issues to complete his 'run' - Nos. 755, 762, 768, 769, 782, 831, 849, 850, 865, 871, 888, 902, 934, 941, 948, 949, 951, 985, 995. Good prices paid or generous exchanges available. Write to: Mr J. F. de Freitas, 648 Stud Road, Scoresby, Victoria, Australia 3179.

WANTED: Greyfriars Holiday Annual 1974; Vol. 21 The Tyrant of Greyfriars; Vol. 22 Billy Bunter's Christmas; Vol. 23 The Joker of Greyfriars; Vol. 39 The Ghost of Polpelley. Offers please, to Dr. P. D. McCall, West Lodge, 47 The Terrace, Wokingham, Berks.

WANTED: Vol. 22 Billy Bunter's Christmas; Vol. 24 The Kidnapped Schoolboys; Vol. 39 The Ghost of Polpelley; Vol. 18 The Greyfriars Double. Offers please, to: Mr C. B. Rollins, 16 Cotysmore Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6BJ

WANTED - DESPERATELY! Club Vol. 3: The Making of Harry Wharton, will pay £30; GHA 1974, will pay £20; Magnet 21, The Tyrant of Greyfriars, will pay £20; Magnet 22, Billy Bunter's Christmas, will pay £20. Write to: David Urch, PO Box 3197, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (or to 13 Melrose Road, Wimbledon, London SW19).

SIGNING OFF . . .

Our next Gazette, the Christmas number, will accompany the last two titles of the present 'Autumn' programme. Publication date should be approximately late November.

Until then, best wishes to all Friars, and happy reading,

Your Publisher

Howard Baker



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